

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2512

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, US, TW, SOPN
SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS REPLAY OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS ON
NORMALIZATION AND TAIWAN

1. SUMMARY. SINCE MAY, REFERENCE NEWS, THE PRC'S RESTRICTED DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS, HAS REPRINTED A LARGE NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON PROSPECTS FOR SINO-US NORMALIZATION, BRZEZINSKI'S MAY VISIT TO THE PRC, THE FRANK PRESS VISIT AND PLAYING THE "CHINA CARD". REFERENCE NEWS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS ON PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM TAIWAN AND A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON THE US "DECISION" NOT TO SELL F-4 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN. A REGULAR READER OF REFERENCE NEWS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS WOULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO MOVE ON NORMALIZATION AND HE WOULD ANTICIPATE PROGRESS IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO HAS OBTAINED SEVENTEEN COPIES OF REFERENCE NEWS
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(TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI), THE PRC'S RESTRICTED DAILY DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS (CIRCULATION 9-10 MILLION). THE SEVENTEEN ISSUES, FROM MAY 1 TO JULY 15, PROVIDED DETAILED COVERAGE OF SINO-US RELATIONS INCLUDING REPORTS ON DR. BRZEZINSKI'S MAY VISIT, THE CONTINUING WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM TAIWAN, PRESS SPECULATION ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE F-4 FIGHTER SALE TO TAIWAN AND ANALYSIS OF THE CARTER

ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS TO PLAY THE "CHINA CARD". THE BASIC THRUST OF THE REPORTS IS POSITIVE AND THE REGULAR READER OF REFERENCE NEWS WOULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO MOVE ON NORMALIZATION AND HE WOULD EXPECT SOME MOVEMENT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

3. THE ISSUES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ON SINO-US RELATIONS:

--A MAY 17 UPI REPORT QUOTING NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMPSON THAT THE "REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS BEEN A BASTION FOR OPPOSING COMMUNISM FOR MANY YEARS" AND THE UNITED STATES HAS A "SPECIAL, AND LEGAL DIPLOMATIC DUTY" TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (MAY 21 ISSUE OF REFERENCE NEWS);

--A MAY 16 CNA REPORT THAT BRZEZINSKI'S TRIP TO PEKING WAS PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH CHIANG CHING-KUO'S INAUGURATION AS ROC PRESIDENT (MAY 21 ISSUE);

--A MAY 18 AFP REPORT THAT TAIWAN DID NOT EXPECT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DURING BRZEZINSKI'S MAY 20-23 TRIP (MAY 21 ISSUE);

--A MAY 16 UPI REPORT QUOTING AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD THAT BRZEZINSKI'S TRIP WILL NOT LEAD TO NORMALIZATION (MAY 21 ISSUE);

--A JUNE 3 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE THAT THE US WILL REDUCE ITS FORCES ON TAIWAN BY 400 WITHIN FOUR MONTHS AND IS CLOSING TWO USG LIBRARIES THERE (JUNE 6);

--A JUNE 5 ICA REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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HODDING CARTER III'S STATEMENT THAT THE US PLANS TO WITHDRAW ADDITIONAL TROOPS FROM TAIWAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (JUNE 7 ISSUE);

--A JUNE 9 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON TAIWAN'S GROWING DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION. THE ARTICLE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE US ECONOMIC ROLE WILL INCREASE AFTER THE US ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH PEKING (JUNE 17 ISSUE);

--A JUNE 12 CNA REPORT OF A JUNE 6 INTERVIEW WITH CHIANG CHING-KUO. CHIANG REITERATED HIS POSITION ON THE US-ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND STATED THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR AMBITION TO LIBERATE TAIWAN (JUNE 17 ISSUE);

--A REPORT BY THE EDITORS OF REFERENCE NEWS ON THE US SALE OF A COMPUTER TO THE BANK OF CHINA IN HONG KONG (JUNE 21 ISSUE);

--A JUNE 29 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE "HOW TO PLAY THE CHINA CARD", A JULY 3 US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ARTICLE "ARE TAIWAN'S DAYS NUMBERED?", AND A JUNE 21 SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST REPORT ON AN INTERVIEW WITH BROWN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR KAU YING-MAO. KAO SUPPORTED THE "GERMAN FORMULA" FOR SOLVING THE TAIWAN PROBLEM (JULY 5 ISSUE);

--THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE JULY 1 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

REPORTING ON AN APPARENT CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECISION
NOT TO SELL F-4 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN (JULY 5 ISSUE);
--A JULY 9 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE DISCUSSING FRANK PRESS'
EARLY JULY VISIT TO PEKING AND PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED
SINO-US TRADE (JULY 12 ISSUE);
--A BRIEF JULY 12 ICA ARTICLE ON FRANK PRESS' REPORT TO
THE PRESIDENT ABOUT HIS EARLY JULY TRIP TO PEKING TO
DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES (FRONT PAGE, JULY 15 ISSUE).

4. THE SEVENTEEN ISSUES CARRIED THE USUAL NUMBER OF ARTICLES
CRITICIZING SOVIET EXPANSIONISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND
ARTICLES ABOUT SOCIALISM IN YUGOSLAVIA, SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY, SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS, SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS,
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. REFERENCE NEWS HAS ALSO
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REPRINTED A SERIALIZED VERSION OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S
MEMOIRS, TAKEN FROM THE HONG KONG PRESS. VERY FEW ARTICLES
ON PRC INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS APPEARED EXCEPT A COLLECTION
OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS ON THE JULY FINANCE AND TRADE
CONFERENCE AND AN APRIL 26 REPORT BY GEORGES BIANNIC ON
THE ARREST OF FORMER CULTURAL REVOLUTION HEROINE NIEH YUAN-
TZU AND 12 OTHERS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY.

5. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES OF REFERENCE NEWS WILL BE POUCHED
TO HONG KONG: MAY 1, MAY 21, JUNE 6, JUNE 7, JUNE 10, JUNE
11, JUNE 17, JUNE 20, JUNE 21, JUNE 22, JULY 5, JULY 7,
JULY 9, JULY 12, JULY 13, JULY 14, AND JULY 15. WOODCOCK

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